

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6796

BILL NUMBER: SB 364

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 31, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Child Abuse or Neglect Reports.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Tallian

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that if a preschool program that receives public funding makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Child Services (DCS), DCS shall send a status report concerning the suspected child abuse or neglect to the director of the preschool program within 30 days after DCS receives the initial report.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill requires that if DCS receives a report of suspected child abuse or neglect from a preschool program, the Department is required to submit a report outlining information related to the case to the director of the preschool program within 30 days of receiving the report. Additionally, in a report prepared by DCS, if information required under current statute is not included in the first report (sent within the first 30 days), this information is required to be included in a subsequent report issued 90 days after the date DCS receives the report of suspected child abuse or neglect.

The provisions of this bill will increase the workload of DCS staff with the inclusion of preschool reporting requirements. The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Background Information: Currently, DCS is required to perform the same task with regards to reports of suspected child abuse or neglect from hospitals, community health centers, managed care providers, referring physicians, dentists, licensed psychologists, and schools (but not a preschool program). The legislation adds preschools to the list of entities defined in current statute. In FY 2007, DCS reverted \$9.5 M to the General Fund.

There are an estimated 164 institutions that provide pre-kindergarten programs and receive public funding in the state of Indiana. Currently, the state does not expend any funds specifically to preschool programs.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Child Services.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: State Budget Agency; Lisa Clifford, FSSA; Debbie Sampson, FSSA, National Child Care Information Center, Early Childhood Center in the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.

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